

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this application as amended.

Claims 1, 6 and 14 have been amended to present the claims in better form for allowance and for possible consideration on appeal. Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to accept the proposed amendments. Claims 4-5, 8-13 and 17-18 have been or were previously cancelled without prejudice. No new claims have been added. Therefore, claims 1-3, 6-7 and 14-16 are now presented for examination.

Claim Objections

Claims 10, 11 and 13 are objected to because of the following informalities: In line 9 of Claim 10, the word “bus” appears to have been erroneously included in the phrase “.... bus simultaneous bi-directional (SBD)...”. Appropriate correction, if necessary, is required.

Claims 10, 11 and 13 have been cancelled without prejudice.

35 U.S.C. § 101 Rejection

Claims 5, 9, 13 and 18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §101 because the disclosed invention is inoperative and therefore lacks utility.

Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner and submit that in one embodiment, signals transmitted on any number of busses can be observed and echoed, while, in another embodiment, the buffer observes and echoes signals transmitted by wireless communication (see Specification, page 3). However, for the sake of expediting issuance of this case, Applicants have cancelled claims 5, 9, 13 and 18 without prejudice.

35 U.S.C. § 112 Rejection

Claims 5, 9, 13 and 18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement.

As stated above, Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner; however, for the sake of expediting issuance of this case, claims 5, 9, 13 and 18 have been cancelled without prejudice.

Claims 1-18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Corrections have been made with the foregoing amendments.

Claims 10 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 10 has been cancelled without prejudice.

35 U.S.C. § 102 Rejection

Claims 1, 2, 3, 6, 7, 10, 11, 14, 15 and 16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e), as being anticipated by Dabral et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,601,196 (“Dabral”).

Dabral discloses “debugging a bus including interposing a device that monitors the data transferred between two devices on the bus such that the bus is split into two busses, with data being copied for transmission to a diagnostics device as the data is transferred between the two busses” (Abstract).

In contrast, claim 1, as amended, in pertinent part recites “a buffer having a trigger . . . to facilitate observing and echoing of one or more of a plurality of signals

transmitted on said memory bus, wherein the trigger operates to instruct the buffer using one or more of the following: a control signal-based indication, an address signal-based indication, and a time-based indication” (emphasis provided). Dabral does not disclose or reasonably suggest a buffer having a trigger to instruct the buffer using one or more of a control signal-based, an address signal-based indication, and a time-based indication, as recited by claim 1. Accordingly, for at least the reasons set forth above, Applicants request the withdrawal of the rejection of claim 1 and its dependent claims.

Claims 6 and 14 contain limitations similar to those of claim 1. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of the rejection of claims 6 and 14 and their dependent claims.

35 U.S.C. § 103 Rejection

Claims 1, 2, 6, 7, 10, 11, 14 and 15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), as being unpatentable over Beyers, U.S. Patent No. 6,072,804 (“Beyers”) in view of La Joie et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,933,594 (“La Joie”), Tanaka et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,666,302 (“Tanaka”), and knowledge which is well known in the art.

Claims 1, 6, 10 and 14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), as being unpatentable over Gonzales, U.S. Patent No. 5,488,688 (“Gonzales”), Tanaka, and knowledge commonly known in the art.

Claims 1, 6, 10 and 14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), as being unpatentable over Yamamoto, U.S. Patent No. 5,903,719 (“Yamamoto”), Tanaka, and knowledge commonly known in the art.

Claims 1, 6, 10 and 14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), as being unpatentable over Assouad, U.S. Patent No. 6,119,254 (“Assouad”), Tanaka, and

knowledge commonly known in the art.

Claim 1, as amended, in pertinent part, recites “a buffer having a trigger . . . to facilitate observing and echoing of one or more of a plurality of signals transmitted on said memory bus, wherein the trigger operates to instruct the buffer using one or more of the following: a control signal-based indication, an address signal-based indication, and a time-based indication” (emphasis provided). The cites references of Beyers, La Joie, Tanaka, Gonzales, Yamamoto, and Assouad, neither individually nor when combined in any combination, disclose or reasonably suggest the a buffer having a trigger to instruct the buffer using one or more of a control signal-based, an address signal-based indication, and a time-based indication, as recited by claim 1. Accordingly, for at least the reasons set forth above, Applicants request the withdrawal of the rejection of claim 1 and its dependent claims.

Claims 6 and 14 contain limitations similar to those of claim 1. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of the rejection of claims 6 and 14 and their dependent claims.

Conclusion

In light of the foregoing, reconsideration and allowance of the claims is hereby earnestly requested.

Invitation for a Telephone Interview

The Examiner is requested to call the undersigned at (303) 740-1980 if there remains any issue with allowance of the case.

Request for an Extension of Time

Applicants respectfully petition for an extension of time to respond to the outstanding Office Action pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) should one be necessary. Please charge our Deposit Account No. 02-2666 to cover the necessary fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(a) for such an extension.

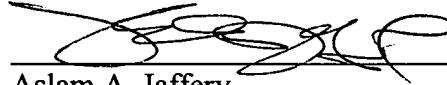
Charge our Deposit Account

Please charge any shortage to our Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP

Date: January 12, 2005


Aslam A. Jaffery
Reg. No. 51,841

12400 Wilshire Boulevard
7th Floor
Los Angeles, California 90025-1030
(303) 740-1980